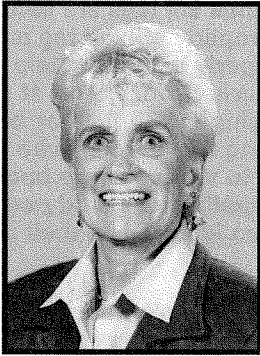


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator

Bev Hammerstrom

State Capitol • Lansing, MI 48913

1-888-477-8238

www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom

November 8, 2004



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED Whether in a quiet reflection or public ceremony, this week we pause to remember and honor the sacrifices of America's true heroes, our nation's veterans. November 11 is Veterans Day, a day to remember the nearly 25 million veterans who have answered our nation's call to duty in the quest for peace and freedom here and around the world. The challenges and threats we face in a new century have given us renewed appreciation for the bravery and honor of our soldiers. As citizens of the world's greatest democracy, we owe our very freedom to those who have demonstrated their love of country through a willingness to serve. This Veterans Day, please take a moment to remember to thank a veteran for keeping our nation strong and free.

DID YOU KNOW? Veterans Day was known as "Armistice Day," a day to honor our nation's World War I heroes. In 1954, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day and President Eisenhower urged Americans to pay tribute to those who served in all wars.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUT-OF-STATE WASTE UPHOLD Michigan has moved a step closer to having the out-of-state waste restrictions residents have been calling for, thanks to a ruling issued October 30 in federal court upholding state law. U.S. District Court Judge Avern Cohn ruled Michigan's new restrictions on out-of-state waste are constitutional and allowed them to be implemented November 1, 2004. The package of laws imposes restrictions on the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste, sets a two-year moratorium on new landfills, and gives broader authority to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to enforce these tougher standards. Under the new rules, all Canadian and out-of-state waste is required to meet the same stringent standards Michigan has for its own waste. Landfills are required to refuse any out-of-state waste that does not meet the tough standards. The new laws represent a bipartisan effort to limit the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of all trash entering Michigan's landfills.

DEER FIREARM SEASON OPENS NEXT WEEK November 15 marks the opening of firearm deer season in Michigan. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) officials remind deer hunters to make sure their kill tags are securely attached to their deer. Every year, conservation officers report several instances where an improperly affixed tag is lost while the deer is dragged from the field or transported on vehicles. The tag backers, when properly used, can help prevent tags from being damaged and ensure that the tags remain with the deer and provide quicker processing at deer check stations. The tag should be closely attached to the deer to reduce the chance of snagging in the field or being blown off by the wind in transit. Hunters are encouraged to use a thicker diameter cord, avoiding thin cord or wire. The tag backer is most effective if it is dry and clean when the license is affixed. Licenses affixed to wet or damp backers will fall off. In addition, hunters can now purchase hunting and fishing licenses, special hunt applications, and permits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within applicable sales dates through the MDNR's E-License system featured on their website at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

STATE PARKS TO GET SPECIAL RECOGNITION Legislation providing special recognition to Michigan's state parks and volunteers has been signed into law. Public Act 395 of 2004 creates an awards program recognizing a state park of the year, state park volunteer of the year, and state park worker of the year. In addition to PA 395, PA 392 creates the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, which will oversee the park system, as well as select the award recipients each year. The committee will be appointed by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources with the advice and consent of the Natural Resources Commission. For more information in regard to our state parks, please visit www.michigan.gov/dnr.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov